



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentence

Defendant: Tavaras Demmings et al

CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTORS SENTENCED

Six members of a cocaine distribution ring known as the "Joy Boys" were sentenced in federal court yesterday, based on their guilty pleas to engaging in a cocaine trafficking conspiracy. The indictment alleged, and the defendants admitted in their guilty pleas, that they acted as sellers in a "mobile crack house" organization that operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, using the telephone to arrange meetings with drug users on the streets of Detroit and the near western suburbs of Detroit. During the peak operating times, between October of 2002 and December, 2003, the organization generated approximately \$30,000 daily in narcotics proceeds. United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, along with Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced that the following sentences were imposed by Senior United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff:

Tavaras Demmings, age 28, of Detroit, 78 months

Galvin Bowden, age 28, of Detroit, 64 months

Herman Burch, age 24, of Westland, 57 months

Edward Hubbert, age 23, of Westland, 46 months

Khalid Ashburn, age 26, of Detroit, 36 months

Kelly Dawe, age 21, of Westland, 9 months

Three more defendants have also pleaded guilty and are waiting sentencing. Three additional defendants, including the top two defendants named in the Indictment, Cornell Smith and Contrell Smith, are scheduled to either plead guilty on December 5, 2005, or else proceed to trial on December 12, 2005.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "These so-called 'Joy Boys' brought the pain and destruction of crack cocaine to our community, and now they face serious time in prison. I applaud the joint ATF, DEA, Wayne County and Detroit Police cooperation and hard work that led to this result."

Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, ATF said, "As a result of the cooperative efforts among all levels of law enforcement we were able to effectively shut down one of Detroit's most lucrative cocaine distribution rings."

The case was the result of a multi-agency investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in cooperation with local police departments, including the Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Wayne Pratt and Michael Riordan.